

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, January 18, 2007

7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

**Commission Present:** Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Dan Devine, Mike Jones

**Staff Present:** Mike Hood, Tammy Miller

Pauls called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Knudson.

**Minutes:** The November minutes were approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Blevins.

**Monthly Report:** Knudson asked about First Night and if the numbers from that event were included in the monthly report?

Hood responded that as we are not the principle organizer of the event, we do not include that information in the monthly report.

The November and December monthly reports were approved on a motion from Grus, seconded by Devine.

## **Rezoning – Northeast corner of Brown Station and Highway 63**

The tract in question is seven acres in size and is within a half-mile of Brown Station Park, the Atkins property and the Smith property. Hood said the tract is downstream, so he does not see any potential adverse effects from the rezoning.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Knudson to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

**All in favor:** Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Blevins, Devine, Jones

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning – Herigon request, north of Waco Road, southeast of Oakland Gravel Road**

Hood said this tract is technically a zoning request, as it is being annexed into the City. The property shares a boundary with the Atkins property and the Smith property is also nearby. Hood said there are two drainages that are branches of Bear Creek, so stormwater run-off could pose a hazard to the park properties. Proper stormwater controls will be needed. He added that it would be appropriate under the Trails Master Plan for the Bear Creek Trail to wind through the site. He suggested that Commissioners recommend easements be set aside for the trail extension.

Blevins asked if the developer would be receptive to this?

Hood answered that the developer (Herigon) is open to the concept.

Devine asked about increased traffic in the area with the new development and how that impacts Waco Road.

Hood said that the street will be constructed to handle “collector type” traffic in the area.

Knudson asked about the corner of the Atkins property on the map and why it seems skewed.

Hood told him that was the site of the proposed library.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kloeppe, the Commission to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning, as long as adequate stormwater controls are implemented by the developer. The Commission also recommends that Council strongly consider

requiring the developer to allow for a trail easement through the property, as part of the City's Master Trails Plan.

**All in favor:** Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Blevins, Devine, Jones

**Motion carried.**

### **Ash and Clinkscales property report**

Hood informed the Commission that the City Council held a public hearing on the Ash and Clinkscales property January 16 with a large crowd in attendance, primarily supporters of the CYBA and the Farmers' Market. A representative of the Boone Ice Group was there to explain why the group was withdrawing its request.

Investors of the organization were fearful that there was no exit strategy since it would be built on public land. However, the feasibility study conducted by the group indicated a rink could be supported, so the group was pursuing locating the rink on private land. The BIG representative expressed support for the CYBA/Farmers' Market proposal to the City Council. The organization PRIDE was not represented at the City Council meeting. Hood said the Council directed staff to draft memorandums of understanding with both the CYBA and the Farmers' Market, with specific fundraising and construction timeframes as well as guidelines for architecture and design.

Hood told Commissioners the challenge now for Parks and Recreation staff will be to design the entire site with the CYBA facility, Farmers' Market and adequate parking.

Grus asked if the agreement with the Farmers' Market would include a timeline for fundraising.

Hood, said yes, the group has committed to raising the funds within a two-year period and those details would be worked out with them.

Kloeppe asked about the CYBA increasing their fundraising goal from \$3 million to \$4 million.

Hood said the organization cited rising construction costs and their desire to ensure they had enough funds to build the facility.

### **Visioning Process**

Hood brought the Commission up to date on the City's visioning process. Two BIG meetings were held in late November, early December with large attendances. From those meetings, 13 topic groups were established. Those groups met for the first time on January 17 and at this point, they plan to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Hood said department heads and upper management are not attending meetings, as the City Manager wants the process to be entirely citizen-driven. Only 7 or 8 people are on the Parks and Recreation committee, and Hood said people can still sign up through mid-February.

### **MPRA Conference**

The MPRA Conference will be held March 6-9 in Springfield. If Commissioners would like to register, they need to contact Tammy by January 24. Hood commented that the conference would offer a good opportunity to see the Springfield-Greene County parks system and all that they offer.

### **Council Items**

Hood said the next Council meeting on February 5 would include a public hearing on improvements to the Oakland Pool bathhouse, a ballot project. Staff is hoping to get the work done by June. The improvements will include a "facelift" as the building is old and looking rather dated. Hood said a family changing room would be included in the renovations, as well as new flooring, plumbing fixtures and paint.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Hood shared updates as follows:

**ARC parking:** An additional 75 spaces were created. Landscaping will be done in the spring.

**Douglass Pool:** The slide is being refurbished. The old fiberglass lining of the main pool basin has been removed.

**Stephens Lake Park Sprayground:** The rock perimeter wall and the base of the sprayground is being put into place.

**Cosmo-Bethel Park:** A new parking lot and shelter will be under construction soon; preliminary grading is being done. Work should be done by early to mid-summer.

**Louisville Park:** The cul-de-sac, basketball court, shelter and walkways are in. The playground is under contract.

**Flat Branch Phase II-** The bridge abutments are done. Trail work nearby was progressing until the bad weather slowed things down.

Knudson asked about when the MKT Trail underpass will be completed.

Hood answered that staff was planning completion in the spring.

### **Commission Comments**

Devine mentioned the passing of former commissioner Larry Hine and what a positive contributor he was to Parks and Recreation. He mentioned how Larry had insisted on saving the “big tree” that is in front of the ARC when the building was being constructed as just one example of his dedication and passion for nature.

Jones thanked Commissioners for the card he received after the birth of his daughter.

Kloepfel asked when the dedication would be rescheduled for the Gentry Building?

Hood responded that it will likely be in the spring, although no date has been set.

Kloepfel then asked about the ice skating policy at the City’s lakes?

Hood said that the primary lake for skating is Stephens and that there must be 4 inches of ice before the lake would be open for skating to ensure safety. He said a public announcement would be made if that happens.

Pauls commented that the water areas at the Garth Nature Area are filling quickly. He also asked about the possibility of the Commission getting long-sleeved Parks and Recreation shirts.

Knudson asked specific questions from the Bike Commission about the proposed Cow Branch Trail and about how trails are developed. He also asked about Rockhill Park and linking that to Hinkson Creek Trail.

Hood said that has always been in the plans, as well as providing a link to the East Campus neighborhood.

Blevins commented that he has traveled extensively recently and watched local newscasts from other cities, and believes Columbia has one of the best parks systems around.

### **Staff Comments**

Ted Curtis provided an update to the Commission on the PedNet Project. He recently made a report to City Council on its progress at a work session. He reviewed some of its details, including an infrastructure plan, acquisition planning and public education. Curtis said he plans to meet with each Council person and then hold a series of public hearings to get input. Curtis said that two meetings have been held already with about 150 people in attendance.

Hood commented that if the Commission desires, a report on the project would be included as a formal agenda item at the February 15 meeting.

### **Public Comments**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.